

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229186 TOSEC 270192

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NODIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM MCMANAWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

1. MEDIA COVERAGE OF HIJACKING:

-- TRANSCRIPT OF TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING, WHICH INCLUDES TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE, SENT YOU SEPTTEL. IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT STATEMENT SEEMED TO DAMPEN ARDOR FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS.

-- AS I INDICATED ON THE PHONE, MY CONCERN HAS BEEN THAT THE MEDIA WILL SUCCEED IN PRECIPITATING A PUBLIC BRAWL WITH THE FBI OVER THE POLICY. SINCE WE TALKED I HAVE CONTINUED TO TRY TO CONTAIN THE FBI PUBLICLY AND BELIEVE WE HAVE DONE SO. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT FURTHER AND HAVE SAID THEY ARE FOLLOWING SAME POLICY. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE FBI DOES NOT AGREE WITH OUR POLICY AND AS MUCH AS SAID SO IN THE CT WORKING GROUP TODAY. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH BRENT AND HE IS AS CONCERNED AS WE ARE THAT THIS BE STRAIGHTENED OUT. I WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 229186 TOSEC 270192

DISCUSS WITH HECK WHEN HE RETURNS TOMORROW.

MEANWHILE (THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE TOWN) FAA HAS FALLEN OFF THE TRAIN (WE HAD NO PREVIOUS INDICATION OF ANY PROBLEM WITH FAA). WE GOT WORD LATE TODAY THAT BRADSHER (WASHINGTON STAR, BALTIMORE SUN) GOT TO FAA AND HAS A STORY

HE WILL RUN TOMORROW TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FAA KNEW OF NO SUCH POLICY AND THAT HECK SAT THROUGH THE ENTIRE OPERATION WITH THEM AND NEVER TOLD THEM THEY WERE DOING ANYTHING WRONG; EVEN WHEN MCLUCAS WAS TALKING TO THE FRENCH-SAYING DO ALL THEY COULD TO FREE THE HOSTAGES. FAA OFFICER WHO WORKED HIJACKING WAS AMAZED TO LEARN OF BRADSHER'S INTENDED STORY AND COULD NOT EXPLAIN IT. PERHAPS BRADSHER IS BAITING US BUT BROWN DOUBTS IT. BRENT IS CALLING MCLUCAS NOW. WE WILL TRY TO GUIDE FAA TOMORROW IF BRADSHER'S STORY GOES. WE SHALL REMAIN FIRM IN REFUSING TO COMMENT FURTHER.

2. GELB:

YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED SEPARATE CABLE FROM AHERNE AND MYSELF ON GELB STORY.

3. FROM GALLOWAY:

-- NORLAND APPROVED BY PRESIDENT FOR BOTSWANA, ETC. AND REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT SENT TODAY.

-- WHITE HOUSE HAS ASKED US TO QUERY YOU AS TO WHETHER SECRETARY HAS DECIDED ON ONE OF THE TWO CANDIDATES FOR HUNGARY.

-- THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES WERE CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE TODAY: CHARLES A. JAMES (NIGER); DAVIS E. BOSTER (GUATEMALA); MELISSA WELLS (GUINEA-BISSAU & CAPE VERDE); FRANCOIS M. DICKMAN (UNITED ARAB EMIRATES); RONALD PALMER (TOGO); PATRICIA M. BYRNE (MALI); FRANK CRIGLER (RWANDA); WALTER STOESSEL (FRG); JULIUS KATZ (ASST. SEC., EB).

-- ON SEPT 10 STOESSEL PRESENTED REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT FOR TOON TO GROMYKO WHO SAID REQUEST WOULD BE CONSIDERED PROMPTLY AND REPLY WOULD BE FURNISHED TO EMBASSY WITHOUT DELAY. TODAY, FOLLOWING ITEM APPEARED IN WASHINGTON POST: QUOTE. PRESIDENT FORD HAS DECIDED TO NAME MALCOLM TOON, A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 229186 TOSEC 270192

CAREER DIPLOMAT KNOWN FOR HIS ANTI-SOVIET VIEWS, AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW, ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY. TOON, CURRENTLY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL, WOULD REPLACE WALTER STOESSEL, WHO IS BEING REASSIGNED TO WEST GERMANY. U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE BEEN STRAINED RECENTLY BY SOVIET MILITARY AID TO THE LEFTIST FACTION IN ANGOLA'S CIVIL WAR LAST YEAR AND OTHER FACTORS. OFFICIALS SAID THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ANTI-SOVIET HARDLINER SUCH AS

TOON IS A SIGNAL TO MOSCOW OF AMERICAN DISPLEASURE OVER RECENT TRENDS. TOON, 60, IS A LONGTIME SPECIALIST IN EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, HAVING HAD TWO TOURS OF DUTY PREVIOUSLY IN MOSCOW. BEFORE GOING TO ISRAEL, TOON ALSO SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. END QUOTE. YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS AS TO SOURCE OF LEAK. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT TONE OF ARTICLE DOES NOT CAUSE SOVIETS TO DRAG THEIR FEET ON RESPONSE.

4. FROM BOSWELL:

THE SOVIETS HAVE FORWARDED TO US A PACKAGE OF EVIDENCE ON A SECOND ALLEGED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL. WE HAVE AGREED, AT THE REQUEST OF INS, TO FORWARD THREE MORE NAMES TO THE SOVIETS.

5. FURTHER TO THE TOON ITEM:

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A USIA PRESS REVIEW CABLE OUT OF TEL AVIV WHICH NOTES THAT RADIO, TV, AND SEVERAL PAPERS CLAIM THAT "THE WHITE HOUSE MADE UP ITS MIND TO SHIFT TOUGH LINER MR. TOON TO THE SOVIET UNION IN ORDER TO SIGNAL TO THE KREMLIN AMERICAN DISPLEASURE OVER RECENT TRENDS." YEDIDOT SAYS "MR. TOON'S SUCCESSOR MIGHT BE LAWRENCE EAGLEBURGER, A TOP AIDE AND CONFIDANT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER."

6. SILBERMAN ON TWA HIJACKING:

SILBERMAN HAS REACTED TO THE SECRETARY'S MODIFIED PRESS CONFERENCE (SECTO 27042) IN HIS OWN BELGRADE 6043, WHICH WAS REPEATED TO YOU EARLIER. THE AMBASSADOR IS DISTURBED BY APPARENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FBI AND STATE POSITION RE PUBLICATION OF THE TWA TERRORIST MANIFESTO; ESPECIALLY, HE CLAIMS, SINCE GOY CONTINUES TO SUGGEST THAT CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE USG (INCLUDING THE FBI) SUPPORT THE CROATIAN TERRORISTS. SILBERMAN ASKED THAT HIS CABLE BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 229186 TOSEC 270192

PASSED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND FBI DIRECTOR. IN LIGHT OF THE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS WE HAVE HAD ON THIS ISSUE I HAVE INSISTED THAT FOR THE TIME BEING HIS CABLE NOT BE PASSED TO EITHER. YOU MAY WISH TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH SILBERMAN. I DO NOT PLAN TO PASS HIS MESSAGE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR FBI PENDING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.

7. P.S. -- MCLUCAS JUST CALLED. HE IS PUZZLED OVER BRADSHER'S CLAIMS AND IS CHECKING NOW WITH HIS PRESS MAN. IN ANY EVENT, WE HAVE AGREED TO HANG TOGETHER NO MATTER WHAT BRADSHER PUBLISHES.

8. P.S. JR. -- MCLUCAS' PRESS MAN JUST CALLED. HE'S WORKING THE PROBLEM WITH AVIATION EDITOR OF THE STAR. WE MAY HAVE THIS LICKED YET. ROBINSON

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